> **You asked:**

Did John Wesley ever use the term "second blessing?

> **ChatGPT Replied:**

Short answer:
Yes—**John Wesley *did* use the phrase "second blessing,"** but only **rarely**, and **not in the later Holiness-movement sense** of a sudden crisis experience of entire sanctification. His occasional use of the wording did *not* create the Keswick/Holiness doctrine; instead, he used it loosely to describe God's ongoing gracious work after conversion.

✔️ Did Wesley actually write the phrase?

Yes. Wesley used the expression *"second blessing"* (or *"second blessing properly so-called"*) in a small number of letters and journal entries—**but without technical precision**. His theology emphasized a **gradual** and **sometimes instantaneous** work of sanctification, not an expectation that every believer should have one later "crisis" event.

Key occurrences:

(1) Letter to Ann Bolton, 1782

Wesley speaks of a *"second blessing, properly so called"* in reference to a deeper work of God after justification.
This is the clearest instance of him using the specific term.

(2) Conversation/Journal references

Wesley sometimes referred to a **"second change," "second gift,"** or **"second work"** of grace, which later holiness advocates interpreted as a technical doctrine. But for Wesley these were **descriptive, not doctrinally formalized**. He insisted Christians could be perfected in love—instantly or gradually—but did not attach a uniform sequence or terminology to it.

(3) Sermon evidence

In sermons such as **"The Scripture Way of Salvation" (1765)** Wesley describes a later, fuller sanctification but **never uses the phrase "second blessing"** in his published sermons.

✔️ How Wesley's use differs from later Holiness teachers

Wesley's view	Later Holiness / "Second Blessing" teachers
Entire sanctification could be **instantaneous or gradual**	Made it a **definite crisis event**
Did **not** require a uniform experience	Often required a **specific post-conversion experience**
Used the phrase only **casually/occasionally**	Used "second blessing" as a **technical theological term**
Emphasized **perfect love**, not sinless perfection	Sometimes moved toward perfectionistic or Keswick-style models

Thus, while Wesley *used* the phrase, his theology does **not** align with the later strict "second blessing" doctrine.

Summary

- **Yes**, Wesley used the phrase *"second blessing,"* but **sporadically**.
- It appears in **letters**, not in doctrinal sermons.
- Wesley's meaning was **not** the crisis-sanctification doctrine later Holiness groups promoted.
- The technical doctrine of a "second blessing" **developed after Wesely's death**, especially through 19th-century American Methodism (e.g., Phoebe Palmer).

If you'd like, I can provide the **exact quotations** from Wesley's letters and their full context.